

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The content of the primary amino group bonded to (co)polymer rubber (I) is preferably from 1 to 600 mmol/kg of (co)polymer rubber polymer. The content is more preferably from 5 to 500 mmol/kg of weight of (co)polymer rubber polymer, and particularly preferably from 10 to 500 mmol/kg of (co)polymer rubber polymer. The (co)polymer rubber polymer as used herein means the weight of only a polymer containing no additives such as an antiaging agent added during or after the production.

Please replace paragraph [0011] beginning at page 7, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0011]

When the ~~number~~ amount of the primary amino groups bonded to the polymer chain exceeds 600 mmol/kg of (co)polymer rubber polymer, cost unfavorably rises. On the other hand, when the ~~number~~ amount of the primary amino groups is less than 1 mmol/kg of (co)polymer rubber polymer, it becomes difficult to exhibit the effect of introduction of the primary amino group. That is to say, the hysteresis loss characteristics, wear resistance and failure characteristics of the resulting (co)polymer rubber are not sufficiently improved. It is therefore unfavorable.

Please replace paragraph [0014] beginning at page 8, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0014]

When the ~~number~~ amount of the alkoxysilyl groups bonded to the polymer chain exceeds 600 mmol/kg of (co)polymer rubber polymer, cost unfavorably rises. On the other hand, when the ~~number~~ amount of the alkoxysilyl groups is less than 1 mmol/kg of (co)polymer rubber polymer, it becomes difficult to exhibit the effect of introduction of the alkoxysilyl group. That is to say, the hysteresis loss characteristics, wear resistance and failure characteristics of the resulting (co)polymer rubber are not sufficiently improved. It is therefore unfavorable.

Please replace paragraph [0053] beginning at page 24, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0053]

When the reactivity of the initiator used in the invention is intended to be improved, or when the aromatic vinyl compound introduced into the polymer rubber is intended to be randomly arranged or a single chain of the aromatic vinyl compound is intended to be given, a potassium compound may be added together with the initiator. As the potassium compound added together with the initiator, there are used, for example, a potassium alkoxide represented by potassium isopropoxide, potassium t-butoxide, potassium t-amylxide, potassium n-heptaoxide, potassium benzyloxide or potassium phenoxide; ~~potassium phenoxide~~; a potassium salt of isovaleric acid, capric acid, lauric acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, linolenic acid, benzoic acid, phthalic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid or the like; a potassium salt of an organic sulfonic acid such as dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, tetradecylbenzenesulfonic acid, hexadecylbenzenesulfonic acid or octadecylbenzenesulfonic

acid; a potassium salt of an organic phosphorous acid partial ester such as diethyl phosphite, diisopropyl phosphite, diphenyl phosphite, dibutyl phosphite or dilauryl phosphite; or the like.

Please replace paragraph [0056] beginning at page 25, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0056]

Of these compounds, specific examples of the isocyanate compounds or the ~~thioisocyanate~~ isothiocyanate compounds, which are component (a), preferably include 2,4-tolylene diisocyanate, 2,6-tolylene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate, polymeric type diphenylmethane diisocyanate (C-MDI), isophorone diisocyanate, hexamethylene diisocyanate, 1,3,5-benzene triisocyanate, phenyl-1,4-diisothiocyanate and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0062] beginning at page 27, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0062]

Specific examples of the tin compounds, which are component (g), preferably include tetrachlorotin, tetrabromotin, trichlorobutyltin, trichloromethyltin, trichlorooctyltin, dibromodimethyltin, dichlorodimethyltin, dichlorodibutyltin, dichlorodioctyltin, 1,2-bis(trichlorostannyl)ethane, 1,2-bis(~~methyldichlorostannyl~~ethane)(methyldichlorostannyl)ethane, 1,4bis(trichlorostannyl)butane, 1,4-bis(methyldichlorostannyl)butane, ethyltin tristearate, butyltin trisoctanoate, butyltin trisstearate, butyltin trislaurate, dibutyltin bisoctanoate, dibutyltin bisstearate, dibutyltin bislaurate and the like.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The functional group can be introduced into a rubber molecule by copolymerizing a monomer having the above-mentioned functional group at the time when the conjugated diene-based (co)polymer rubber is produced. Further, the (co)polymer rubber having the tin atom or the silicon atom can be obtained by coupling a tin compound or a silicon compound with a living anion of the conjugated diene-based (co)polymer rubber.

Please replace paragraph [0079] beginning at page 34, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0079]

The epoxy group-containing monomers include (meth)~~allyl~~ acryl glycidyl ether, glycidyl (meth)acrylate, 3,4-oxycyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and the like. The monomers having these specific functional groups may each be used alone or in combination of two or more of them.

Please replace paragraph [0115] beginning at page 51, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0115]

Here, as for the ratio of the rubber component containing components (I) and (II) in the rubber composition of the invention to the filler, the filler is from 1 to 150 parts by weight, preferably from 20 to 120 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber components. Less than ~~20 parts~~ 1 part by weight results in insufficiency of the improving effect due to the filler, whereas exceeding ~~[[120]]~~ 150 parts by weight results in too hard a material prepared to be put to practical use.

Please replace paragraph [0142] beginning at page 66, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0142]

Example 1

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber C and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber D were mixed with each other in amounts of 95 g and 5 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0143] beginning at page 66, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0143]

Example 2

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber C and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber F were mixed with each other in amounts of 99 g and 1 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0144] beginning at page 67, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0144]

Example 3

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber C and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber F were mixed with each other in amounts of 70 g and 30 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0145] beginning at page 67, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0145]

Example 4

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber B and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber D were mixed with each other in amounts of 95 g and 5 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0146] beginning at page 68, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0146]

Example 5

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber A and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber E were mixed with each other in amounts of 90 g and 10 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0147] beginning at page 68, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0147]

Example 6

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber C and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber D were mixed with each other in amounts of 95 g and 3 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and 20 g of an extending oil (T-DAE manufactured by Fuji Kosan Co., Ltd.) was further added. Desolvation was performed by steam stripping, and the rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0148] beginning at page 69, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0148]

Comparative Example 1

Only the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber B was used in an amount of 100 g in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0149] beginning at page 69, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0149]

Comparative Example 2

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber C and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber G were mixed with each other in amounts of 95 g and 5 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.



Please replace paragraph [0150] beginning at page 69, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0150]

Comparative Example 3

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber B and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber E were mixed with each other in amounts of 62 g and 38 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0151] beginning at page 70, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0151]

Comparative Example 4

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber A and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber I were mixed with each other in amounts of 90 g and 10 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.

Please replace paragraph [0152] beginning at page 70, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0152]

Comparative Example 5

The solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber B and the solution of ~~polymer~~ copolymer rubber H were mixed with each other in amounts of 90 g and 10 g, respectively, in terms of solid content, and desolvation was performed by steam stripping. The rubber was dried with a heated roll of 115°C to obtain a rubber composition. A compounded rubber prepared according to a compounding formulation shown in Table 4, using this rubber composition, was vulcanized, and subjected to evaluation of physical properties. The results thereof are shown in Table 5.